

A&D HIGHLIGHTS

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Fall 2004

Dr. PERRY'S CORNER Methamphetamine: A Crisis for Children, Families, and Communities in Tennessee

Stephanie W. Perry, M.D.

Methamphetamine is a "powerfully addictive stimulant associated with serious health conditions including memory loss, aggression, violence, psychotic behavior and potential heart and neurological damage", as defined by the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA).¹ Initially prominent in the Western United States, the spread of methamphetamine has migrated to other areas of the country, urban and rural, including Tennessee.

The Drug Enforcement Administration reports that 75 percent of all methamphetamine lab seizures in the Southeast are in Tennessee.² Clandestine lab seizures have dramatically increased from 135 in 1999 to 499 in 2003.³ The cost of cleaning up one of the labs is difficult to estimate, since the labs have become more portable as they are discovered in car trunks and motel rooms. In addition, nearly 700 children were placed in state custody from January 2002 to July 2003 as a result of child abuse and neglect investigations involving methamphetamine.⁴ Research data reveals that stimulant abuse in Tennessee's publicly funded clients tripled from 1998 to 2002.⁵



There is a saying in the substance abuse field that no one tries meth just once. Methamphetamine is highly addictive because the mechanism of action is to reward the pleasure centers of the brain very rapidly. This powerful, volatile, easily manufactured drug has significant impact not only on those who use and manufacture the drug, but also on families, children, neighborhoods, communities and the agencies that provide treatment, prevention, protection, interdiction, and support services.

The Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services recognizes the serious devastation of methamphetamine and is committed to addressing this problem. In addition to ongoing training and support to our statewide treatment and prevention programs with innovative approaches on methamphetamine, we have participated in the Governor's Methamphetamine Task Force to make recommendations on developing an effective strategy to address this epidemic in Tennessee. We have also been awarded federal funding for the **Access to Recovery** program to expand treatment capacity, provide client choice and increase community-based recovery providers. Our grant will allow us to deliver substance abuse services to a greater

number of individuals and to address the growing problem of methamphetamine. ■



Access to Recovery grant awarded by the Drug Czar in Memphis
Ken Givens, Commissioner of Agriculture and Chairman of Governor Bredesen's Methamphetamine Task Force, John Walters, Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, Stephanie W. Perry, MD, Assistant Commissioner, Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services, TDH and Kenneth S. Robinson, M.D. Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Health

¹ NIDA Community Drug Alert Bulletin-Methamphetamine, National Institute on Drug Abuse, Alan I. Leshner, Ph.D., October 1998.

² U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, State Fact Sheet, February, 2004.

³ DEA Briefs & Background, Drugs, and Drug Abuse, Map of Methamphetamine Lab Seizures, National Clandestine Lab Database, 01/01/99 — 12/31/99 and 01/1/03 — 12/31/03.

⁴ Department of Children's Services Methamphetamine Statistics, January 2002 — July 2003

⁵ Methamphetamine Abuse in Tennessee: Trends and Treatment Outcomes, The SAT Report, Vol. 1. No. 3, 2004, I SATE, University of Memphis.

LOCAL ARTISTS REDEFINE THE PRIZE AT THE 8TH ANNUAL PRISM AWARDS



Pam Anderson, Join Together Foundation; Al McRee, SHARE; Sara Smith, SHARE; and Marshall Millikin, SHARE.

The Entertainment Industries Council, Inc. presents a nationally televised awards show, the PRISM awards, for outstanding efforts in the accurate depiction of drug, alcohol and tobacco use and addiction as well as treatment and recovery in the media of film, television, interactive, comic books, music and video entertainment. PRISM award winners are selected for their entertainment value, accessibility of their message, and scientific accuracy. The production in each category that best exemplifies these three objectives is presented with an award.

This year the EIC launched a new award, the Inaugural President's Award, to recognize a production that not only raises awareness, but also leaves a legacy. This first award was given to Songs of Hope and Recovery for Everyone, or SHARE. The mission of SHARE is to use the power of Nashville music to increase awareness of and funds for the treatment and prevention of alcohol and other drug abuse and the many persons and social problems they are a part of. SHARE is a group of artists, composers, technical craftsmen, promotional and business personnel in the country music industry.

Nearly 20 artists participated in the recording of the SHARE CD and the subsequent music video, "When Love Rules the World." Participants included Rhett Atkins, Susan Ashton, Sherrie Austin, T. Graham Brown, Gary Burr, Ricky Lynn Gregg, Sonya Isaacs, Carolyn Dawn Johnson, Hal Ketchum, Raul Malo, Kathy Mattea, Martina McBride, Michael Peterson, Jon Randall, Collin Raye, Darryl Singletary, and Mark Willis.

The CD, comprised of 15 previous hit songs depicting the many stages of addiction and recovery, was produced by V-Tone Records, is distributed to the recovery community through Hazelden and is available at the Tennessee Statewide Clearinghouse (615) 780-5901. ■

TRANSITIONS

Rod Bragg has joined the Bureau as a treatment consultant in the Division of Treatment Services and Program Design. Rod brings a wealth of experience and education with him, having worked in the field as a clinician and administrator in the addiction, mental health and co-occurring programs for over 15 years. He will be working closely with our HIV and co-occurring initiatives. Additionally, he will serve as the primary contact with some of the Bureau's contracted treatment providers.

Robert St. John has recently been hired to work with the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Treatment program (ADAT). Robert has a diverse background in operations and administration with AT&T during his 26 years of service, and 5 years with LTC Consultants, Inc., a training and consulting company for long-term care insurance providers. He also served in the Navy for ten years. His first mission with ADAT has been to analyze and report on the statistics collected from the ADAT Survey completed by treatment providers some months ago. In addition, Robert has been reviewing and processing ADAT requests, and working closely with Judy Jacobs and Pat Wilson. ■

MOVING ON UP

The Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services has moved to a new suite of offices, high atop the Tennessee Tower. Our new address is

Tennessee Department of Health
Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services
William Snodgrass Tennessee Tower
312 8th Avenue North, 26th Floor
Nashville, Tennessee 37247-4401

Phone 615 741-1921
FAX 615 532-2419

Parking is available on Church Street, between 6th and 7th at the library. A photo ID and sign-in for visitors is required to enter the building. In addition, the Bureau has access to meeting rooms and conference space on the 3rd floor. This move provides us with the additional space that is required by new staff and projects.

Please make a note of the address change.



Taryn Harrison Sloss and Lawrence A. Mellion, III make the move official by securing names to our office doors.

**Tennessee Department of Health
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312 8th Avenue North, 26th Floor
Nashville, Tennessee 37247-4401**

Buffalo Valley, Inc.

Demonstrating the Cost Effectiveness of Providing Comprehensive Service to the Homeless

*"People helping people."
Debbie Hillin, Buffalo Valley, Inc.*

Buffalo Valley, Inc. (BVI) a not-for profit agency, has provided alcohol and other drug treatment services for over 25 years. The agency has expanded its continuum of care to include outreach, emergency shelter, ASAM levels of care, employment training, case management and affordable housing. The mission of Buffalo Valley is to provide alcohol and substance abuse treatment, transitional and permanent housing, economic and community development and other supportive services for low income, homeless and other residents of rural Tennessee. The agency also assists the populations served in moving through a continuum of care into recovery, meaningful employment and safe and secure housing.

DEVELOPING RESOURCES

Since 1995, Buffalo Valley has been the lead agency and outreach provider for the Homeless No More continuum of care coalition, funded through the Housing and Urban Development's supportive housing program. This is a well coordinated project that focuses on combating homelessness by increasing affordable housing opportunities, improving housing and service coordination, and enhancing partnerships with mainstream housing resources.

By building on experience and success in providing treatment services through the alcohol and drug block grant, Buffalo Valley has successfully applied for and received grants from other federal sources such as the Department of Labor, Department of Education, Department of Human Services, and Housing and Urban Development.

THE IMPORTANCE OF FAITH-BASED PARTNERSHIPS

Since 1979 faith-based partnerships have been an ongoing component of BVI programs. Over the past few years as homeless programming has increased, these partnerships have intensified and strengthened. Numerous churches have committed time and resources to provide spiritual counseling, clothing, food and linkages to other services in their communities. One faith-based initiative provides services to pregnant women and their children while residing in stable housing.

THE VALUE OF DATA COLLECTION AND OUTCOME REPORTING

Buffalo Valley has utilized the data and outcome reporting

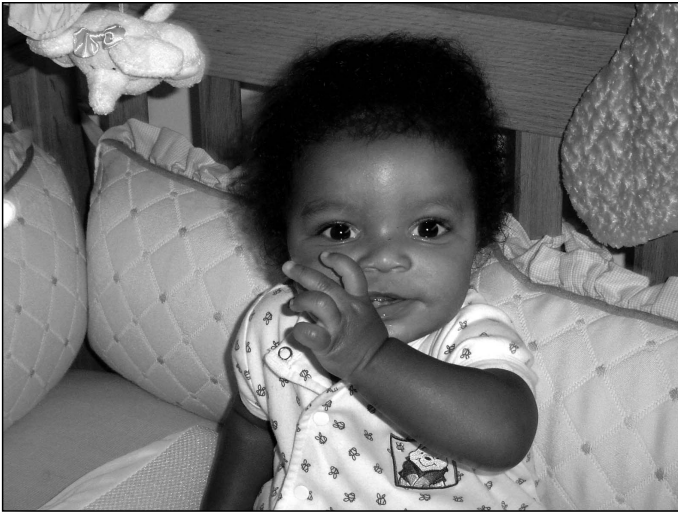
systems of both the Treatment Outcome of Alcohol and Drug Services (TOADS) and the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations to demonstrate successful outcomes of their treatment programs in Lewis, Marshall and Montgomery Counties. Through treatment services available in these counties, 1200 men and women over the age of 18 have produced a 66.3 percent abstinence rate according to the TOADS report. By demonstrating the effectiveness of their programming, BVI applied for and received funding to strengthen and expand existing efforts.

TREATING WHOLE COMMUNITIES WITH AFFORDABLE HOUSING

As a part of the Homeless No More program, Buffalo Valley focuses on combating homelessness. Those eligible for this program benefit from outreach and case management services, employment training, and transitional and permanent housing. With supportive services in Sumner, Montgomery, Robertson, Marshall, Maury, Bedford and Perry Counties, over 332 homeless individuals and over 60 homeless families with children receive these intensive services annually. In doing so, BVI is assisting individuals in making the transition from homelessness to stability, recovery and independence as productive citizens.

As the agency began to develop housing opportunities for their formerly homeless clients, BVI realized the need for affordable housing for all people in the rural areas receiving services. As a result, Buffalo Valley initiated an affordable housing initiative in 1997 called Valley Housing. The project constructs houses that are designed to be attractive additions to any neighborhood. Valley Housing provides low cost housing to low and middle income wage earners. For the past five years, Valley housing has developed more than \$600,000 per year in affordable housing.

Buffalo Valley, Inc. has used its experience in community outreach and treatment to design and develop the resources needed to support their clients in recovery. BVI has applied for and received funding from non-traditional addiction and behavioral sources to develop the valuable resource of affordable housing in all the communities they serve. For more information on developing affordable housing contact Debbie Hillin, Director of Housing and Clinical Grants, (931) 796-5427. ■



Jaden Christopher Sloss born January 5, 2004 is a new addition for Taryn Harrison Sloss and husband Julius. Taryn serves as an Administrative Service Assistant to Dr. Perry. Welcome Jaden.

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of the Bureau of Alcohol & Drug Abuse Services
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